

RETURN DATE: MARCH 7, 2023

STATE OF CONNECTICUT	:	SUPERIOR COURT
EX REL WILLIAM TONG,	:	
ATTORNEY GENERAL	:	JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD
	:	AT HARTFORD
V.	:	
	:	
JOHN F. BERNARDO	:	JANUARY 26, 2023

COMPLAINT

1. This is an action under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-110 *et seq.* seeking the revocation or reduction of the pension of a state or municipal employee who has pleaded guilty to a crime related to state or municipal office. In particular, this complaint seeks the revocation or reduction of the pension of Defendant, John F. Bernardo, formerly a municipal employee of the City of West Haven and the City of New Haven, for the reasons pleaded below.

I. THE PARTIES

2. The Plaintiff is the State of Connecticut, acting on the relation of William Tong, Attorney General of the State of Connecticut.

3. The Attorney General is expressly authorized by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-110a(a) to bring actions such as this against public officials and/or state or municipal employees who are convicted of, or who plead guilty or nolo contendere to, any crime related to state or municipal office.

4. Defendant, John F. Bernardo, is a natural person residing in West Haven, Connecticut.

II. CAUSE OF ACTION – REVOCATION OR REDUCTION OF PENSION

5. From February 2013 until the fourth quarter of 2021, Defendant John F. Bernardo was employed by the City of West Haven, Connecticut. Defendant John F. Bernardo's most recent

position was as a Housing Specialist concerning U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants in the City of West Haven's Office of Community Development Administration. Defendant John F. Bernardo resigned from his City of West Haven employment after the commencement of the criminal proceedings referred to in paragraph 9, below.

6. Defendant John F. Bernardo was previously employed by the City of New Haven, Connecticut. From April 1983 until September 2009, Defendant John F. Bernardo was a New Haven Firefighter and Inspector working in the Fire Department and Fire Marshall's office.

7. Defendant John F. Bernardo's employment with the City of West Haven constitutes service as a "state or municipal employee" within the meaning of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-110(2). Defendant John F. Bernardo's employment with the City of New Haven also constitutes service as a "state or municipal employee" within the meaning of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-110(2).

8. Defendant John F. Bernardo is entitled to pension benefits on account of his employment with the City of New Haven. He currently receives a pension payment of \$5,255.22 each month.

9. On June 14, 2022, Defendant John F. Bernardo pleaded guilty to the following crime: one count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 and 18 U.S.C. § 1343. This guilty plea is reflected in the following case on file in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut: *United States of America v. John Bernardo*, #3:22-cr-00033-OAW (D. Conn).

10. Defendant John F. Bernardo's guilty plea to Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud is a "crime related to state or municipal office" as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-110(3). The conduct acknowledged in the plea agreement signed by Defendant John F. Bernardo

establishes that the crime fits the definition of “crime related to state or municipal office” under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-110(3), subparts (A), (B), and (D).

11. Defendant John F. Bernardo was a state or municipal employee who pleaded guilty to a crime related to state or municipal office. Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-110a(a), this Court should “revoke or reduce the pension of any kind to which such public official or state or municipal employee is otherwise entitled under the general statutes”

III. DEMAND FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-110a, the State of Connecticut, acting on the relation of William Tong, Attorney General of the State of Connecticut, respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Revoke and/or reduce any pension to which Defendant John F. Bernardo is entitled on account of his service as a state or municipal employee;
2. Grant such other relief as is just and equitable to effectuate the purposes of this action.

Done at Hartford, Connecticut this 26th day of January, 2023

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

WILLIAM TONG
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY:



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